

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 EUR-12 SCCT-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /082 W

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R 051320Z JUL 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2162

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0718

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL ARAB CAPITALS AND GENEVA, MOSCOW, LONDON
AND TEL AVIV

GENEVA FOR MEPC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, XF

SUBJECT: IRAQ AND THE REJECTION FRONT

REF: BAGHDAD 656 (STATE 147936)

1. PALESTINE REJECTION FRONT GROUP LED BY PFLP SEC GEN GEORGE HABASH AND COMPRISING ABDUL RAHIM AHMED OF ALF, DR. SAMIR GHOSHA, SEC GEN OF PSF, AND ABU AL-ABBAS OF PFLP (GC) VISITED BAGHDAD JUNE 26-30. GROUP WAS INVITED BY PAN-ARAB LEADERSHIP OF BAATH PARTY, WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT AL-BAKR AND SADDAM HUSSEIN, AND ACCORDED EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY. HOWEVER, NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE OR STATEMENT ISSUED AND, AS IN CASE OF JALLOUD VISIT (REFTEL), IRAQ ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH REJECTION FRONT POSITION ONLY BY ACCORDING DEL WARM RECEPTION AND PUBLICITY.

2. DURING CALL ON MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IBRAHIM AL-WALI JULY 3, I ASKED HIM SPECIFICALLY ABOUT GOI POSITION TOWARD REJECTION FRONT. AFTER REITERATING WELL KNOWN GOI POSITION THAT IRAQ CANNOT AGREE TO FINAL ME SETTLEMENT THAT DOES NOT RESTORE FULL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS AND INCLUDE TRANS-
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FORMATION OF ISRAEL SO THAT ISRAELIS ARE NO LONGER ALIEN ELEMENT

IN ARAB AREA, AL-WALI SAID IRAQ'S INTERESTS AS A SOVEREIGN STATE NATURALLY DIFFER FROM PALESTINIANS. IRAQ WELCOMES ANY AGREEMENT THAT RESULTS IN RETURN OF ONE INCH OF OCCUPIED TERRITORY. FOR THIS REASON IT DOES NOT OPPOSE SADAT'S POLICY, BUT NEITHER DOES IT AGREE WITH HIS STRATEGY THAT WOULD RESULT IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. GOI WILL NOT ACCEPT PARTIAL ACCORDS AS FINAL SOLUTION. AT SAME TIME, IT RECOGNIZES THAT CONFLICT WILL TAKE TIME TO RESOLVE AND IS CONFIDENT THAT TIME IS CLEARLY ON SIDE OF THE ARABS. WITH REGARD TO REJECTION FRONT, IRAQ SYMPATHIZES WITH THEIR GOALS, RECOGNIZES THAT THEY ARE PEOPLE MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED AND THAT THEIR STRUGGLE STILL HAS LONG WAY TO GO. IF IRAQIS WERE PALESTINIANS THEY TOO WOULD BE REJECTIONISTS.

3. AL-WALI THEN ADDED THAT GOI IS CONVINCED THAT CONTINUOUS STRUGGLE BY ALL MEANS IS ONLY WAY OF REGAINING ARAB RIGHTS. IT BELIEVES THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION APPRECIATES WHERE VITAL U.S. INTERESTS IN AREA ARE AND IS WORKING TOWARD A SETTLEMENT, BUT THAT ITS HANDS ARE TIED BY ZIONIST-INFLUENCED CONGRESS AND JEWISH POLITICAL POWER IN U.S. GOI DOES NOT THEREFORE EXPECT ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN U.S. UNSTINTING SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING ISRAELI ARROGANCE AND AGGRESSION AGAINST ARABS AS EVIDENCED BY SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

4. COMMENT: IRAQI POLICH WELCOMING (ALBEIT WITHOUT ENDORSING) PARTIAL AGREEMENTS THAT RESULT IN FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS AND RECOGNIZING THAT THEIR CONCEPT OF FINAL SETTLEMENT WILL TAKE MANY YEARS IS PROBABLY BEST WE CAN EXPECT FROM THIS REGIME AND ANY LIKELY SUCCESSOR. POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS THAT COULD FLOW FROM FURTHER WITHDRAWALS COULD RENDER THEIR CONCEPT OF FINAL SETTLEMENT, WHICH IS FORM OF SECULAR STATE COVERING ALL OF PALESTINE, ACADEMIC. THIS MAY, HOWEVER, BE WISHFUL THINKING BECAUSE IT IS CLEAR FROM AL-WALI'S STATEMENTS AND IRAQI ACTIONS THAT REGIME IS NOW CONVINCED THAT BALANCE OF POWER IS SHIFTING SO OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF ARABS THAT IT SEES LITTLE IMPERATIVE FOR ARABS TO SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN FULL RESTORATION OF PALESTINIAN DEMANDS. WHILE NOT LACKING CONVICTION, THIS REGIME IS TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF IRAQ'S GEOGRAPHIC REMOTENESS FROM ISRAEL TO DEMONSTRATE ITS DEDICATION TO ARAB

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CAUSE AS A MEANS OF CONSOLIDATING ITS DOMESTIC SUPPORT AND ATTEMPTING TO PORTRAY IMAGE AS THE TRUE LEADER OF PURE ARAB NATIONALISM.

LOWRIE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

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